UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE:	
Missouri	
COUNTY:	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Clay	
FOR NPS USE (ONLY
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1. NAME		1		
COMMON:				
James Brothers' House				
AND/OR HISTORIC:				
Birthplace of Jesse James 2. LOCATION		Ì		
STREET AND NUMBER: 2 1/4 miles east of Kearney on State Highway 92,	20000000000	1		
north 1 3/4 miles				
CITY OR TOWN:				
Section 19 - Township 53N - Range 30W		}		
CODE CONT.	DE	1		
Missouri 64060 29 Clay 0	47	1		
CATEGORY	F	1		
(Check One) OWNERSHIP STATUS TO THE PUB				
☐ District ☒ Building ☐ Public Public Acquisition: ☐ Occupied Yes:				
☐ Site ☐ Structure ☑ Private ☐ In Process ☑ Unoccupied ☑ Restricted	j	{		
Object Both Being Considered Preservation work Unrestrict	ed .			
in progress No				
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)]		
☐ Agricultural ☐ Government ☐ Park ☐ Transportation ☐ Comments				
Commercial Industrial Private Residence Other (Specify)				
☐ Educational ☐ Military ☐ Religious				
☐ Entertainment ☑ Museum ☐ Scientific				
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY OWNER'S NAME:	<u> </u>	<u></u>		
		STAT		
Mrs. Robert James (presently in a nursing home)		TE:		
Sevier & Turnage, Attorneys at Law, 17 North Water Street	SO			
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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6.

JAMES BROTHERS' HOUSE

Missouri State Historical Survey

1969

Missouri State Park Board

P.O. Box 176

1204 Jefferson Building

Jefferson City, Missouri 65101 Code: 29

DESCRIPTION							
1	1			(Check One)			
CONDITION	☐ Excellent	☐ Good	🔀 Fair	Deteriorated	Ruins	☐ Unexposed	
		(Check O	ne)		(Che	ck One)	
	⊠ Alter	ed	Unaltered		☐ Moved	▼ Original Site	

The James Brothers' House near Kearney, Missouri, is a one-story two room log cabin built in 1822, and facing south. A later, wood frame addition with one story plus attic, is attached to the east wall and at a right angle to the cabin forming a "T" plan structure. The frame addition faces east.

EXTERIOR

Log Cabin

The log cabin is constructed of horizontal squared logs, 7 1/2" in diameter and is clapboarded on the exterior. The logs are flush and crudely dovetailed at the corners; interfill is of limestone rock and sand plaster. The 1 foot wide clapboards are unfinished.

An entrance porch spanning the eastern two thirds of the cabin's south wall is floored with wooden planks 3 1/2" in width and 7'9" in length. The bottoms of the three posts supporting the open south porch have rotted and are resting on limestone. The floor planks on the porch of the log cabin are also rotting. The west end of the south porch has been enclosed to form a small storage room. A tree has grown in the southwest corner of this room, separating the joining in this corner. Clapboards have been nailed directly to this tree. Rotted portions of the clapboarding on the west wall have been replaced with random boarding reinforced with sheet metal.

The openings in the log cabin include two windows and a door (which has been boarded shut) on the north facade; two doors on either side of a window on the south facade; and one entrance door on the east wall of the small storage room. The west door on the south wall and the entrance to the storage room are boarded. The windows are all double hung 6 over 6 light sash with board framing. The glass which is putty glazed from the exterior is imperfect and may be original. The lower half of the west window on the east wall has been boarded. The wooden plank doors are braced by two horizontal boards on the interior. The log cabin has settled three feet or more since its construction. Therefore, the former 5'll" high door on the north wall is now 3'10" high.

The log cabin has a simple ridge roof which is wood shingled. The southern slope of the roof continues over the south porch and is supported by three squared wooden posts. There is a large, centrally-located chimney made of roughly shaped limestone blocks set in lime mortar; it has a stone drip course and wooden cap with metal flashing. Two lightning rods are located on either side of the chimney stack.

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7. #1

JAMES BROTHERS' HOUSE

The Frame Addition

The southern two-thirds of the wood frame addition rests on a rubble coursed, limestone foundation. The northern third, constructed later, rests on a foundation wall of reinforced concrete. The entire addition has been clapboarded and painted white.

The openings in the addition consist of one window on the south facade, two doors flanked by two windows on the older section of the east facade, a double window on the newer section of the east wall, an entrance door on the northwest porch, and one on the southwest leading to the porch of the log cabin. (see sketch plan). The older windows are large double-hung 2 over 2 light sash. The two front doors are paneled, while the doors and windows all have a simple wooden sill and a decoratively molded wood lintel. Each corner of the frame addition has an applied pilaster and cap.

A porch, centered on the older section of the east facade, is approached by two wooden steps. Its sloping roof is supported by three round wooden posts across the front (east) and two identical half posts against the facade. Each of the posts has scroll brackets.

The simple ridge roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The frame addition has two brick chimneys on the roof ridge, one near the center of the ridge and one near the north gable end. The main bodies of the flues are enclosed within the frame walls. Two lightning rods flank the central chimney.

INTERIOR

Log Cabin

The interior of the log cabin is divided into two rooms by a large, central chimney with double back to back fireboxes. The west room is 17' by 16'4"; the east room is 17' by 13'3". The limestone blocks of the fireplaces and hearths are set in lime mortar. Both fireplaces have wooden mantels. A coal stove has been added in the west room and stands in front of the fireplace.

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7. #2

JAMES BROTHERS' HOUSE

Floors and ceilings in both rooms are of random width planks. The floor of the west room is about 2' above the level of the east room and is approached on the south by two wooden steps. The original ceiling height was about 6'4". The log walls are covered with wallpaper, backed by a canvas-like material. The dividing walls between the east, west and southwest rooms are all of squared logs covered with paper.

Ceiling, floors and walls of the log cabin are buckling as a result of the settling. The interior flooring is uneven and the ceiling exhibits a noticeable sag. This portion of the structure is presently in deteriorated condition.

The Frame Addition

The interior of the wood frame addition is divided into three rooms: the south room is 15'3" by 15'6", the middle room is 15'3" by 15'9", and the room on the north is 15'3" by 13'8". A 4'7" by 10' porch spans most of the western wall of the north room. The wooden plank flooring is covered with linoleum. The walls and ceilings are wallpapered. Two chimney closets protrude from the interior walls, one on the north wall of the north room and one on the south wall of the middle room. A modern heating stove is located on the south wall of the middle room. All of the interior doors in the southern two rooms are paneled and have the square and rosette framing molding at the corners. The door on the west wall of the middle room that connects with the log cabin has been made into a dutch door. The ceilings are approximately 10' high.

The frame addition is in good structural condition, although the interior wallpaper is peeling and there are several cracks in the plaster in the south room.

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7. #3

JAMES BROTHERS' HOUSE

CHRONOLOGY AND CONDITION

Jacob Gromer built a two-room log cabin with a log tack room and porch on the property in 1822. Only this portion of the presently existing house has historic associations with both of the James Brothers. The James family acquired the farm in 1845 and added a one and one-half story white frame addition to the cabin and covered the logs with siding. In 1893, after Jesse James' death, his mother sold the frame addition to the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago. This same year she added the southern two rooms and east porch of the frame addition. In 1935, the log section of the house proved unlivable, and the remaining James family built a frame kitchen (north room) and screen enclosed porch. The log cabin was clapboarded for the first time in 1845 and reshingled in 1935. (Mrs. Margaret Bade, administratrix of the property, interviewed by Charla A. Piggot on August 19, 1969.)

SI	GNIFICANCE			
T	PERIOD (Check One or More as A	(ppropriate)		•
1	Pre-Columbian	☐ 16th Century	☐ 18th Century	20th Century
	☐ 15th Century	☐ 17th Century	🔀 19th Century	
ŀ	SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable	e and Known) 1845		
Ţ	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Che	ck One or More as Appropri	ete)	
1	Abor iginal	☐ Education	▼ Political	Urban Planning
1	Prehistoric	☐ Engineering	Religion/Phi-	Other (Specify)
١	Historic	☐ Industry	losophy	Folklore
1	Agriculture	☐ Invention	Science	residence of
	Architecture	☐ Landscape	☐ Sculpture	outlaws
	☐ Art	Architecture	Social/Human-	
1	☐ Commerce	☐ Literature	iterian	
1	Communications	Military	Theater	,
	Conservation	Music	☐ Transportation	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The James Brothers' House is significant as the birthplace of Jesse and Frank James and has been selected as the most important site related to the James Brothers in Missouri. Within the scope of Missouri history, the brothers are stereotypes of guerilla bands emanating from the turmoil and violence of the Reconstruction period. The impact of their outlawry on the gubernatorial election of 1882 and on the legends evolving in the dime-novels on the "Wild West" reflect the significance of the James legend to American political and social history.

Frank James, born on January 10, 1843 and Jesse James, born on September 5, 1847 were the sons of Robert and Zerelda Scott James. Robert James was a respected citizen, serving as pastor of the New Hope Baptist Church for seven years and also as a member of the board of trustees of William Jewell College in Liberty, Missouri. He died on the Pacific Coast while following the "gold rush" of 1849. His wife twice remarried: first to her neighbor Benjamin Simms, and upon his death to Dr. Reuben Samuel in 1855.1

"...the James band's career of lawlessness and the growth of the legends around it are deeply rooted in and inextricably bound to the events of the Civil War and its aftermath. The nature of the war in Missouri, a border state, produced bands of guerillas from which many postwar outlaws came." The family became involved in the intense Missouri and Kansas border warfare over the extension of slavery. During the Civil War, Frank James joined William Clark Quantrill's band of guerillas fighting for the Southern cause in Missouri. During the war, Mrs. Samuel and Jesse carried messages and served as lookouts. Suspected by the local militia for their rebel activities, the militia visited the house and abused the family. After this episode, Jesse, at the age of 17, joined Quantrill.

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8. #1

JAMES BROTHERS' HOUSE

After the war, the brothers returned to the farm and lived there for the next four years. However, they continued a lawless way of life and became notorious outlaws. Their first robbery took place in 1866 at the Commercial Bank of Liberty, Missouri where they stole \$58,000.00 and murdered a young boy. Their last robbery took place in 1881 when the gang robbed the Chicago and Alton Railroad near Blue Cut, Missouri.²

On January 26, 1875 a raid occurred on the James Farm which caused broad repercussions throughout the State of Missouri. A flaming ball was thrown into the window. The ball exploded, killing Mrs. Samuel's youngest son, Archie Peyton Samuel, and maiming her right hand so that amputation was necessary. Evidence pointed to the Pinkerton Detective Agency as the responsible party; the James brothers had previously murdered three Pinkerton men.³

The raid generated sympathy among the people of Missouri for the James family, and consequently, a resolution was passed in the General Assembly calling for an investigation. But this was not enough, the public soon agitated for the passage of an amnesty bill which would cover the acts committed by the James brothers during the Civil War. The Missouri Constitution of 1865 failed to provide means of granting amnesty to ex-confederates, and legislators heatedly debated the issue. Although a majority of the General Assembly voted for the bill (58 for and 39 against), it lacked the necessary two-thirds majority. The fact that it did almost pass illustrates the importance of the James brothers in Missouri history. Following are some excerpts from the bill:

Whereas, Under the outlawry pronounced against Jesse W. James, Coleman Younger, Robert Younger, James Younger, and others, who gallantly periled their lives and their all in defense of their principles, they are of necessity made desperate, driven as they are from the fields of honest industry, from their friends, their families, their homes and their country, they can know no law but the law of self-preservation; can have no respect of and feel no allegiance to a government which forces them to the very acts it professes to deprecate and then offer a bounty for their apprehension, and arms foreign mercenaries with power to capture and kill;

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8. #2

JAMES BROTHERS' HOUSE

whereas, Believing these men too brave to be mean, too generous to be revengeful, and too gallant and honorable to betray a friend or break a promise, and believing further, that most, if not all, the offences with which they are charged have been committed by others, and perhaps by those pretending to hunt them, or their confederates, that their names are and have been used to divert suspicion from, and thereby relieve the actual attention to the real criminals, and that common justice, sound policy and true statesmanship alike demand that general amnesty should be extended to all alike, of both parties, for at-

tacks done or charged to have been done during the war;

there be it resolved,...4

By the gubernatorial election of 1882, the Republican Party had maneuvered, by exploiting the lawlessness, to pitch the Confederate and ex-Union groups against each other. They charged the Democratic administration of Governor Thomas Crittenden as being responsible for the robberies and murders of the James Gang and exclaimed that the ruffians would remain free because of their Confederate background. The Republican Party lost this campaign issue when on April 3, 1882, Jesse James was killed by Bob Ford, a member of his own gang. Ford was bribed by Governor Crittenden of Missouri to kill James in return for full pardon for his crimes and a share of the reward money. After Jesse's death, Frank surrendered and was tried and acquited three times for murder. Frank James retired to the family home after the trials and lived there until his death in 1915.

The people of Missouri were sympathetic to the Frank James case and condemned Ford and Crittenden for the premeditated murder of Jesse. At this time the Republicans attempted to capitalize on this turn of events by adopting a resolution congratulating Governor Crittenden for his actions. The Democrats realizing the political suicide involved quickly squelched the resolution.

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8. #3

JAMES BROTHERS' HOUSE

In newspaper accounts, dime-novels, and ballads, the brothers were celebrated and became folk heroes as "Robin Hood" characters who robbed the rich Northerners and arrogant railroad capitalists to give to the poor. Many people pardoned their murders by rationalizing that the brothers were a product of their environment and their violent upbringing. The Southerners in Missouri felt that Frank and Jesse were simply carrying on the war against the powerful northern railroad and banks. Carl Sandburg has stated that: "Jesse James is the only American bandit who is classical, who is to this country what Robin Hood or Dick Turpin is to England, whose exploits are so close to the mythical and apocryphal."

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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- 1. Bade, Mrs. Margaret. Administratrix of the James property, Kearney, Missouri. Interviewed by Charla A. Piggott, August 19, 1969, filed at Missouri State Fark Board, F.O. Box 176, 1204 Jefferson Building, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101.
- 2. Breihan, Carl W. The Day Jesse James Was Killed. New York: Frederick Fell, Inc., 1961.

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JAMES BROTHERS' HOUSE

- 3. Sandburg, Carl. The American Songbag. New York: Harcourt Brace and Book Press, 1947.
- 4. State Historical Society of Missouri. Columbia, Missouri. Historic Site Files. Ref. Clay County.
- 5. Settle, William A. <u>Jesse James Was His Name</u>. Columbia, Missouri: University of Missouri Press: 1968.

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JAMES BROTHERS' HOUSE

Footnotes

1William A. Settle, <u>Jesse James Was His Name</u>, 1968, pp. 6-8.

²Carl W. Breihan, The Day Jesse James Was Killed, 1961, pp. 25-29.

³Settle, 1968, p. 76.

⁴Settle, 1968, pp. 78, 80, 83.

⁵Breihan, 1961, pp. 138-39, 143-55, 201-209.

⁶State Historical Society of Missouri, Historic Site Files; Clay County. Columbia, Missouri.

⁷Breihan, 1961, pp. 61-66; Settle, 1968, pp. 2-3.

⁸Carl Sandburg, <u>The American Songbag</u>, 1947, p. 420.

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¹ Form 10-301 (July 1969)	UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE		STATE			
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Form 10-301 (July 1969) UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

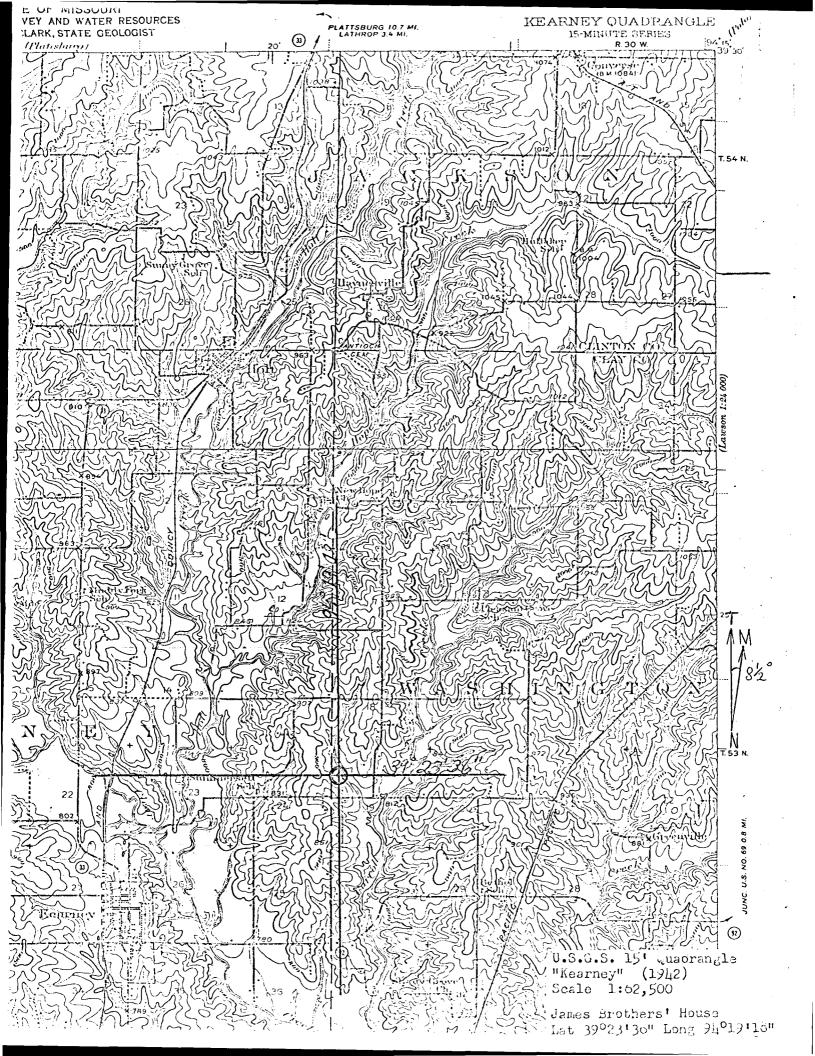
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

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AND/OR HISTORIC: Birthplace	of Jesse James		
LOCATION			
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- 3. Latitude and longitude reference.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

JAMES BROTHERS' HOUSE AND FARM

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2.	Missouri State Historical Survey					state	
	Missouri State Park Board						
	P.O. Box 176 Jefferson City					Missouri	65102
		ITEM NUMBER	11	PAGE	1		
2.	James M. Denny, Section Chief, No 1978 Department of Natural Resources Office of Historic Preservation	ominations-Sur	vey			state	
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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The James Brothers' House near Kearney, Missouri, is a one-story two room log cabin built in 1822, and facing south. A later, wood frame addition with one story plus attic, is attached to the east wall and at a right angle to the cabin forming a "T" plan structure. The frame addition faces east.

Exterior

Log Cabin

The log cabin is constructed of horizontal squared logs, 7 1/2" in diameter and is clapboarded on the exterior. The logs are flush and crudely dovetailed at the corners; interfill is of limestone rock and sand plaster. The 1 foot wide clapboards are unfinished... one of the cabin should be accounted to the cabin should be accounted to the cabin should be accounted with wooden planks 3 1/2" in width and 7'9" in length. The bottoms of the three posts supporting the open south porch have rotted and are resting on limestone.

with wooden planks 3 1/2" in width and 7'9" in length. The bottoms of the three posts supporting the open south porch have rotted and are resting on limestone. The floor planks on the porch of the log cabin are also rotting. The west end of the south porch has been enclosed to form a small storage room. A tree has grown in the southwest corner of this room, separating the joining in this corner. Clapboards have been nailed directly to this tree. Rotted portions of the clapboarding on the west wall have been replaced with random boarding reinforced with sheet metal.

The openings in the log cabin include two windows and a door (which has been boarded, shut) on the north facade; two doors on either side of a window on the south facade; and one entrance door on the east wall of the small storage room. The west door on the south wall and the entrance to the storage room are boarded. The windows are all double hung six-over-six light sash with board framing. The glass which is putty glazed from the exterior is imperfect and may be original. The lower half of the west window on the east wall has been boarded. The wooden plank doors are braced by two horizontal boards on the interior. The log cabin has settled three feet or more since its construction. Therefore, the former 5'll" high door on the north wall is now 3'lo" high.

The log cabin has a simple ridge roof which is wood shingled. The southern slope of the roof continues over the south porch and is supported by three squared wooden posts. There is a large, centrally-located chimney made of roughly shaped limestone blocks set in lime mortar; it has a stone drip course and wooden cap with metal flashing. Two lightning rods are located on either side of the chimney stack.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

JAMES BROTHERS' HOUSE AND FARM

CONTINUATION SHEET

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INTERIOR

Log Cabin

The interior of the log cabin is divided into two rooms by a large, central chimney with double back to back fireboxes. The west room is 17' by 16'4"; the east room is 17' by 13'3". The limestone blocks of the fireplaces and hearths are set in lime mortar. Both fireplaces have wooden mantels. A coal stove has been added in the west room and stands in front of the fireplace.

Floors and ceilings in both rooms are of random width planks. The floor of the west room is about 2' above the level of the east room and is approached on the south by two wooden steps. The original ceiling height was about 6'4". The log walls are covered with wallpaper, backed by a canvas-like material. The dividing walls between the east, west and southwest rooms are all of squared logs covered with paper.

Ceiling, floors and walls of the log cabin are buckling as a result of the settling. The interior flooring is uneven and the ceiling exhibits a noticeable sag. This portion of the structure is presently in deteriorated condition.

The Frame Addition

The interior of the wood frame addition is divided into three rooms: the south room is 15'3" by 15'6", the middle room is 15'3" by 15'9", and the room on the north is 15'3" by 13'8". A 4'7" by 10' porch spans most of the western wall of the north room. The wooden plank flooring is covered with linoleum. The walls and ceilings are wallpapered. Two chimney closets protrude from the interior walls, one on the north wall of the north room and one on the south wall of the middle room. A modern heating stove is located on the south wall of the middle room. All of the interior doors in the southern two rooms are paneled and have the square and rosette framing molding at the corners. The door on the west wall of the middle room that connects with the log cabin has been made into a dutch door. The ceilings are approximately 10' high.

The frame addition is in good structural condition, although the interior wallpaper is peeling and there are several cracks in the plaster in the south room.

Form No. 10-300a (Hev. 10-74)

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

JAMES BROTHERS' HOUSE AND FARM

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE

CHRONOLOGY AND CONDITION

Jacob Gromer built a two-room log cabin with a log tack room and porch on the property in 1822. Only this portion of the presently existing house has historic associations with both of the James Brothers. The James family acquired the farm in 1845 and added a one and one-half story white frame addition to the cabin and covered the logs with siding. In 1893 after Jesse James' death, his mother sold the frame addition to the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago. This same year she added the southern two rooms and east porch of the frame addition. In 1935, the log section of the house proved unlivable, and the remaining James family built a frame kitchen (north room) and screen enclosed porch. The log cabin was clapboarded for the first time in 1845 and reshingled in 1935. (Mrs. Margaret Bade, administratrix of the property, interviewed by Charla A. Piggot on August 19, 1969.)

SITE

The James Brothers' House occupies the approximate center of a 40 acre tract of land. This property has been in the James family continuously from October 13, 1845 (Clay County Deed Record Book M, page 255) until July 7, 1978 on which date the property passed from the last James descendants, Chester and Gertie Barr to the County of Clay. The county proposes to use the farm as a historical site. Plans include restoration of the James Home (presently deteriorated) construction of a museum and gift shop, establishment of a "living farm" and possible creation of an outdoor theater to present the life of the James Brothers. These facilities will be properly screened from the actual home and outbuildings (David Frye, Administrative Assistant, County Court of Clay County, Missouri, correspondence with James M. Denny, Section Chief, Nominations-Survey, Office of Historic Preservation, May 25, 1978.)

PERIOD	AF	REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	ECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	·
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	100 100	INVENTION		residence of outlaws

SPECIFIC DATES

1845

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The James Brothers' House is significant as the birthplace of Jesse and Frank James and has been selected as the most important site related to the James Brothers in Missouri. Within the scope of Missouri history, the brothers are stereotypes of guerilla bands emanating from the turmoil and violence of the Reconstruction period. The impact of their outlawry on the gubernatorial election of 1882 and on the legends evolving in the dime-novels on the "Wild West" reflect the significance of the James legend to American political and social history.

Frank James, born on January 10, 1843 and Jesse James, born on September 5, 1847 were the sons of Robert and Zerelda Scott James. Robert James was a respected citizen, serving as pastor of the New Hope Baptist Church for seven years and also as a member of the board of trustees of William Jewell College in Liberty, Missouri. He died on the Pacific Coast while following the "gold rush" of 1849. His wife twice remarried: first to her neighbor Benjamin Simms, and upon his death to Dr. Reuben Samuel in 1855.

"...the James band's career of lawlessness and the growth of the legends around it are deeply rooted in and inextricably bound to the events of the Civil War and its aftermath. The nature of the war in Missouri, a border state, produced bands of guerillas from which many postwar outlaws came." The family became involved in the intense Missouri and Kansas border warfare over the extension of slavery. During the Civil War, Frank James joined William Clark Quantrill's band of guerillas fighting for the Southern cause in Missouri. During the war, Mrs. Samuel and Jesse carried messages and served as lookouts. Suspected by the local militia for their rebel activities, the militia visited the house and abused the family. After this episode, Jesse, at the age of 17, joined Quantrill.

After the war, the brothers returned to the farm and lived there for the next four years. However, they continued a lawless way of life and became notorious outlaws. Their first robbery took place in 1866 at the Commercial Bank of Liberty, Missouri where they stole \$58,000.00 and murdered a young boy. Their last robbery took place in 1881 when the gang robbed the Chicago and Alton Railroad near Blue Cut, Missouri.²

On January 26, 1875 a raid occurred on the James Farm which caused broad repercussions throughout the State of Missouri. A flaming ball was thrown into the window. The ball exploded, killing Mrs. Samuel's youngest son, Archie Peyton Sameul, and maiming her right hand so that amputation was necessary. Evidence pointed to the Pinkerton Detective Agency as the responsible party; the James brothers had previously murdered three Pinkerton men.³

Form No. 10-300a (Hev. 10-74)

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

JAMES BROTHERS' HOUSE AND FARM

CONTINUATION SHEET

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The raid generated sympathy among the people of Missouri for the James family, and consequently, a resolution was passed in the General Assembly calling for an investigation. But this was not enough, the public soon agitated for the passage of an amnesty bill which would cover the acts committed by the James brothers during the Civil War. The Missouri Constitution of 1865 failed to provide means of granting amnesty to ex-confederates, and legislators heatedly debated the issue. Although a majority of the General Assembly voted for the bill (58 for and 39 against), it lacked the necessary two-thirds majority. The fact that it did almost pass illustrates the importance of the James brothers in Missouri history. Following are some excerpts from the bill:

Whereas, Under the outlawry pronounced against Jesse W. James, Coleman Younger, Robert Younger, James Younger, and others, who gallantly periled their lives and their all in defense of their principles, they are of necessity made desperate, driven as they are from the fields of honest industry, from their friends, their families, their homes and their country, they can know no law but the law of self-preservation; can have no respect of and feel no allegiance to a government which forces them to the very acts it professes to deprecate and then offer a bounty for their apprehension, and arms foreign mercenaries with power to capture and kill;

and

Whereas, Believing these men too brave to be mean, too generous to be revengeful, and too gallant and honorable to betray a friend or break a promise, and believing further, that most, if not all, the offences with which they are charged have been committed by others, and perhaps by those pretending to hunt them, or their confederates, that their names are and have been used to divert suspicion from, and thereby relieve the actual attention to the real criminals, and that common justice, sound policy and true statesmanship alike demand that general amnesty should be extended to all alike, of both parties, for attacks done or charged to have been done during the war; there be it resolved,...4

By the gubernatorial election of 1882, the Republican Party had maneuvered, by exploiting the lawlessness, to pitch the Confederate and ex-Union groups against each other. They charged the Democratic administration of Governor Thomas Crittenden as being responsible for the robberies and murders of the James Gang and exclaimed that the ruffians would remain free because of their Confederate background. The Republican Party lost this campaign issue when on April 3, 1882, Jesse James was killed by Bob Ford, a member of his own gang. Ford was bribed by Governor Crittenden of Missouri to kill James in return for full pardon for his crimes and a share of the reward money. After Jesse's death, Frank surrendered and was tried and acquitted

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JAMES BROTHERS' HOUSE AND FARM

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE

three times for murder.⁵ Frank James retired to the family home after the trials and lived there until his death in 1915.⁶

The people of Missouri were sympathetic to the Frank James case and condemned Ford and Crittenden for the premeditated murder of Jesse. At this time the Republicans attempted to capitalize on this turn of events by adopting a resolution congratulating Governor Crittenden for his actions. The Democrats realizing the political suicide involved quickly squelched the resolution.

In newspaper accounts, dime-novels, and ballads, the brothers were celebrated and became folk heroes as "Robin Hood" characters who robbed the rich NOrtherners and arrogant railroad capitalists to give to the poor. Many people pardoned their murders by rationalizing that the brothers were a product of their environment and their violent upbringing. The Southerners in Missouri felt that Frank and Jesse were simply carrying on the war against the powerful northern railroad and banks. Carl Sandburg has stated that: "Jesse James is the only American bandit who is classical, who is to this country what Robin Hood or Dick Turpin is to England, whose exploits are so close to the mythical and apocryphal."

FOOTNOTES

- 1. William A. Settle, Jesse James Was His Name, 1968, pp. 6-8.
- 2. Carl W. Breihan, The Day Jesse James Was Killed, 1961, pp. 25-29.
- 3. Settle, 1968, p. 76
- 4. Settle, 1968, pp. 78, 80, 83.
- 5. Breihan, 1961, pp. 138-39, 143-55, 201-209.
- 6. State Historical Society of Missouri, Historic Site Files; Clay County. Columbia, Missouri.
- 7. Breihan, 1961, pp. 61-66; Settle, 1968, pp. 2-3.
- 8. Carl Sandburg, The American Songbag, 1947, p. 420.

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JAMES BROTHERS' HOUSE AND FARM

CONTINUATION SHEET

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- 3. Sandburg, Carl. <u>The American Songbag</u>. New York: Harcourt Brace and Book Press, 1947.
- 4. State Historical Society of Missouri. Columbia, Missouri. Historic Site Files. Ref. Clay County.
- 5. Settle, William A. <u>Jesse James Was His Name</u>. Columbia, Missouri: University of Missouri Press: 1968.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Bade, Mrs. Margaret. Administratrix of the James property, Kearney, Missouri. Interviewed by Charla A. Piggot, August 19, 1969, filed at Missouri State Park Board, P.O. Box 176, 1101 Southwest Boulevard, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102.
- 2. Breihan, Carl W., The Day Jesse James Was Killed. New York: Frederick Fell, Inc., 1961.

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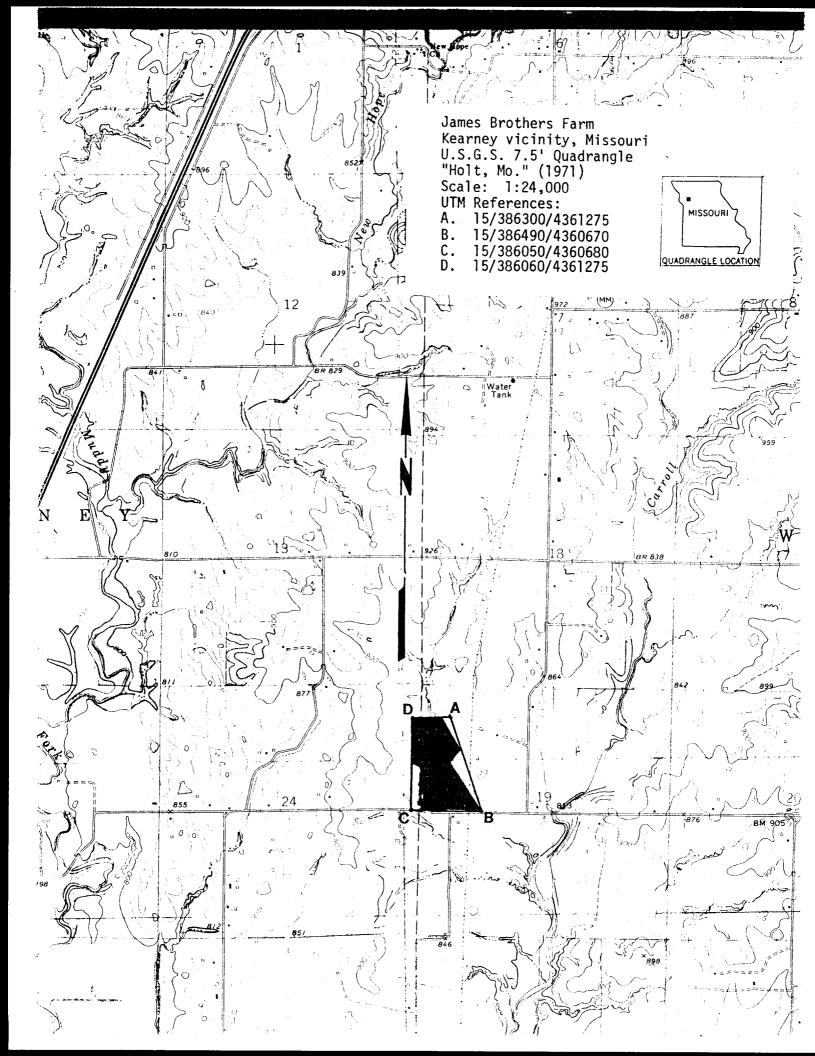
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

JAMES BROTHERS' HOUSE AND FARM

CONTINUATION SHEET

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the whole bounded as follows, to-wit: Beginning at a point in the south line of said Northwest Quarter of said Section No. Nineteen (19), which is six and eighty-six hundredths (6.86) chains east from the southwest corner of said quarter section, said point of beginning being the southeast corner of J.B. Crook's two acres on March 29, 1902, thence running east to a point which is distant 80 poles from said southwest corner of said quarter section, thence running north 31 1/2° west sixty-eight poles to a point, thence running north 14° west twelve poles to a point, thence running north 33°, east eighteen poles to a spring, thence running north 33° west forty-three and four hundredths poles to a point, thence running south fifty-nine and twenty-four hundredths poles to a point, thence running east eleven and eight hundredths poles to a point, thence running east eleven and eight hundredths poles to a point, thence running south fifty-nine and twenty-four hundredths poles to a point, thence running east eleven and eight hundredths poles to a point, thence running south twelve and four hundredths chains to the northwest corner of said J.B. Crook's two acres on March 29, 1902, and thence running south three and sixteen hundredths chains to the point of beginning, in Clay County, Missouri.



visible at left, south gable end wall of the 1845 frame addition at center,

and east (front) facade of the frame addition at right. The entire 1845 addition was removed in 1893 when it was sold to the World's Columbian Exposition at Chicago. Members of James family in the yard, Mrs. Samuel

seated with her husband and perhaps Frank James and his wife.

CODE 047 PHOTO CREDIT:R. L. Walker, State Historical Survey, Missouri State Park Board DATE OF PHOTO: AUGUST 19, 1969, 11:00 a.m. - 2:15 p.m. (photocopy of old view) REGATIVE FILED AT: Missouri State Park Board, P.O. Box 176 DATE Old view of the house, photograph made, ca. 1875-1880. South wall of log cabin FOR NPS USE ONLY Missouri 1204 Jefferson Building, Jefferson City, Missouri ENTRY NUMBER Clay on State Highway 92, COUNTY Clay STATE COUNTY (Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph, NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES 300 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR CODE Section 19 - Township 53N - Range STREET AND NUMBER: 24 miles east of Kearney 2 Birthplace of Jesse James PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM NATIONAL PARK SERVICE north 1 3/4 miles James Brothers' House 09079 Missouri PHOTO REFERENCE AND/OR HISTORIC: IDENTIFICATION DATE OF PHOTO: CITY OR TOWN: LOCATION COMMON: STATE: 1. NAME 4 n В T S N 3 S 0 1 I 0 1 Ξ



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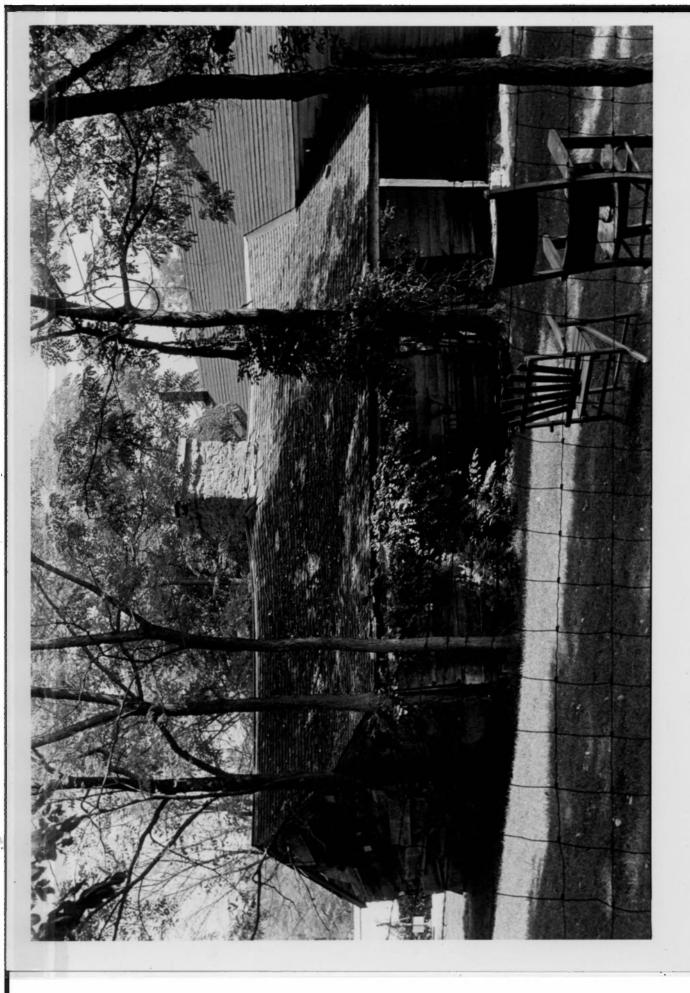
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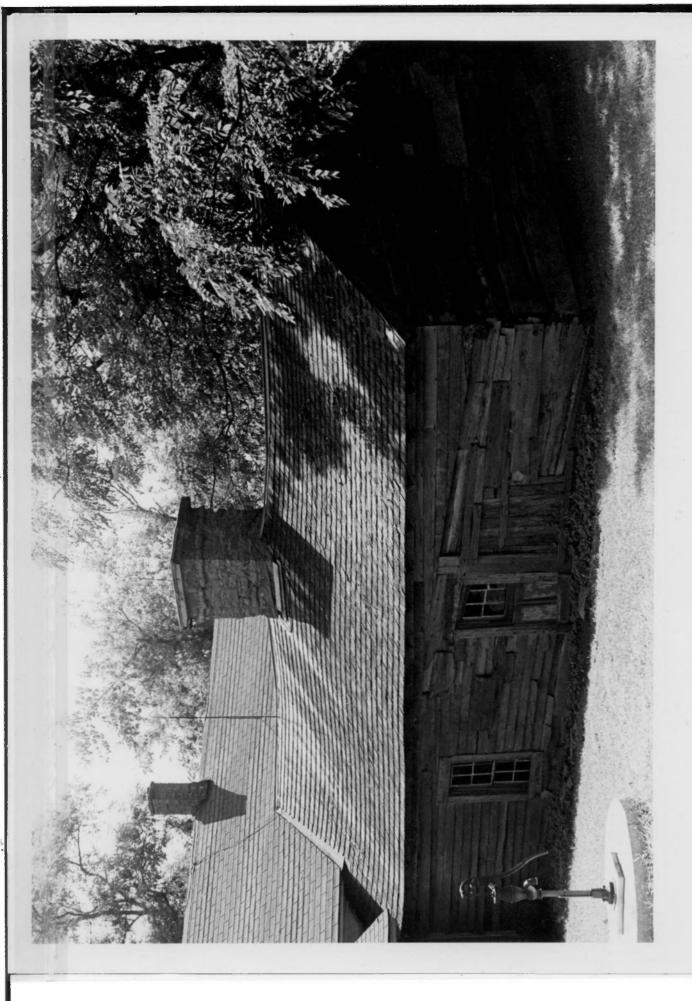
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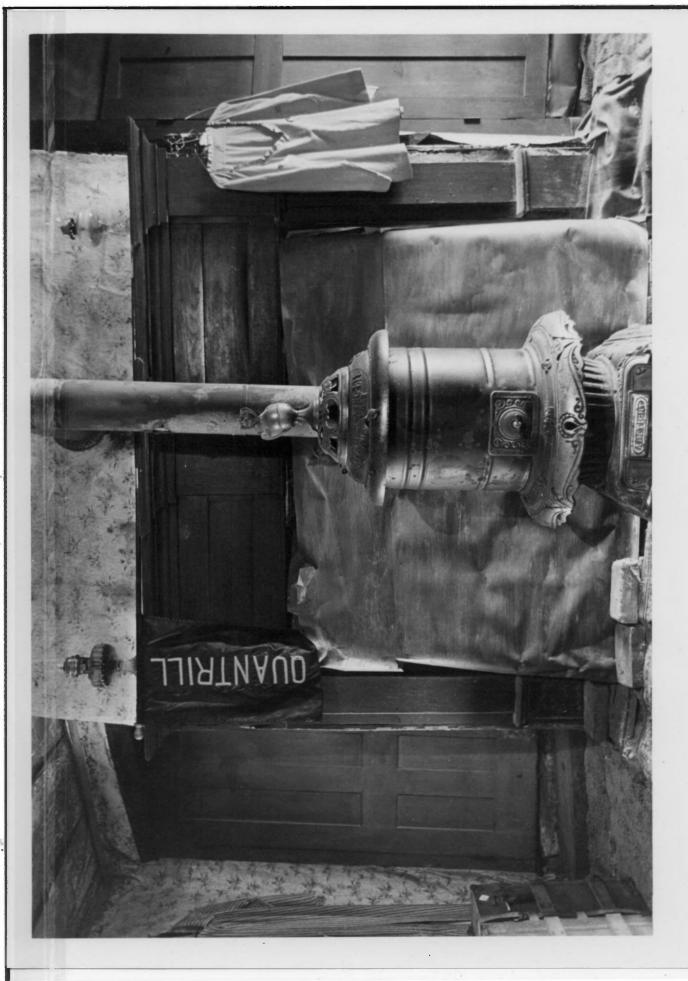
gable wall of the log cabin at left, south facade (the original front wall of the cabin) at center, and west wall of the 1893 frame addition at right. Tree located at the junction of the west and south walls of the log cabin has separated the joining of the corner and has become essentially a part West of the building by serving as a vertical attachment for clamboands DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC From Southwest, view to the northeast.



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THE INTERIOR ICE TORIC PLACES FORM	se with photograph)	James	STREET AND NUMBER: 2½ miles east of Kearney on State Highway 92, north 1 3/4 miles CITY OR TOWN: Section 19 - Township 53N - Range 36M	CODE COUNTY:	PHOTO CREDITE, I. Walker, State Historical Survey, Missouri State Park Board DATE OF PHOTO: August 19, 1969, 11:00 a.m 2:15 p.m. NEGATIVE FILED AT: Missouri State Park Board, P.O. Box 176 1201, Jeffenson Building, Jeffenson City, Missouri, 65101	pentification original kitchen in log cabin section of house. Both doorways connect west room of the log cabin. West firebox of the double (back to back) firebox chirney is intact. The box is closed and a stove flu opened.
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM	(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)	James Brothers' House	D NUMBER: 2½ miles east of Kearney on Snorth 1 3/4 miles www. Section 19 - Township 53N - Range 30N	09019	Ther, State Histir 19, 1969, 11:0	in log cabin se log cabin. We is intact. The
UNITED ST NATIONAL PROPER	(Type all entrie	COMMON: James Brot AND/OR HISTORIC: Birt 2. LOCATION	STREET AND NUMBER: 24 no no no no Section 19	STATE: Missouri PHOTO REFERENCE	TO CREDITE, L. WARE OF PHOTO: AUGUS	A IDENTIFICATION DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTORING OF The West room of the firebox chimney



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

STATE	
Missouri	
COUNTY	
Clay	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

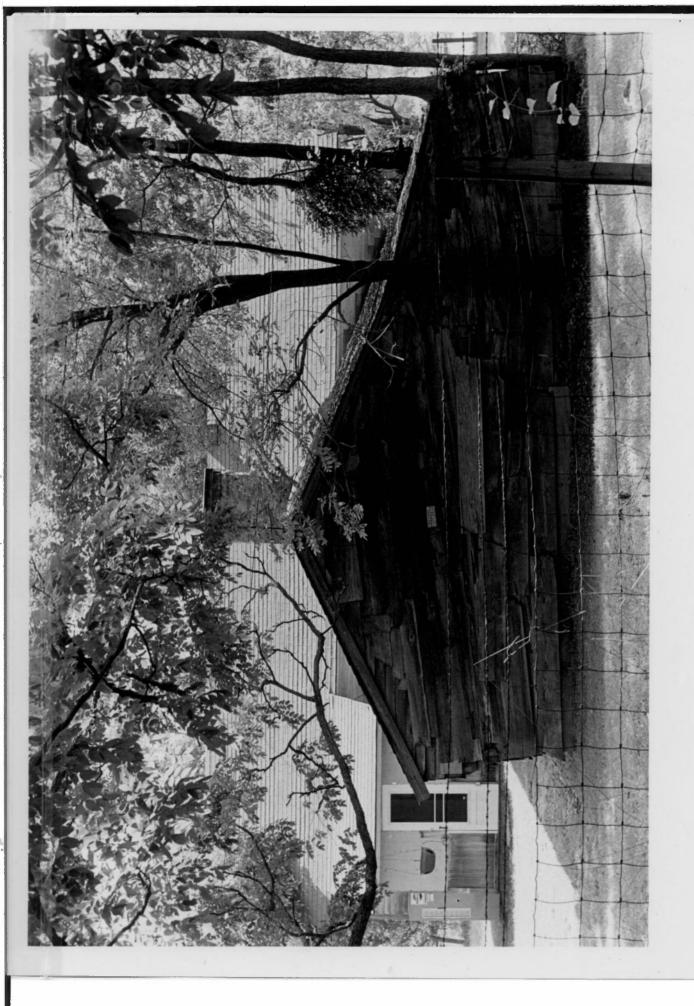
1. NAME

	common: James Brothers' House
1	AND/OR HISTORIC: Birtholace of Jesse James
8	2. LOCATION
	STREET AND NUMBER: 24 miles east of Kearney on State Highway 92, north 1 3/4 miles
	CITY OR TOWN:
	Section 19 - Township 53N - Range 30W
	STATE: CODE COUNTY:
	Missouri, 64060 24 Clay
3	3. PHOTO REFERENCE ,
	PHOTO CREDIT: R. I. Walker, State Historical Survey, Missouri, State Park Board
	рате огрното: August 19, 1969, 11:00 а.т 2:15 р.т.
	NEGATIVE FILED AT: Missouri State Park Board, P.O. Box 176
	120% Jefferson Building, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101
4	4. IDENTIFICATION
	DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. From West, view to the east, View of west

elevation of log cabin in foreground, and frame addition in background. The irregular siding on the log cabin was added to repair deteriorated earlier clapboarding which had been applied more uniformly. The under

layer of siding is partially revealed just under the eave line of the left (north) slope of the log cabin's ridge roof.

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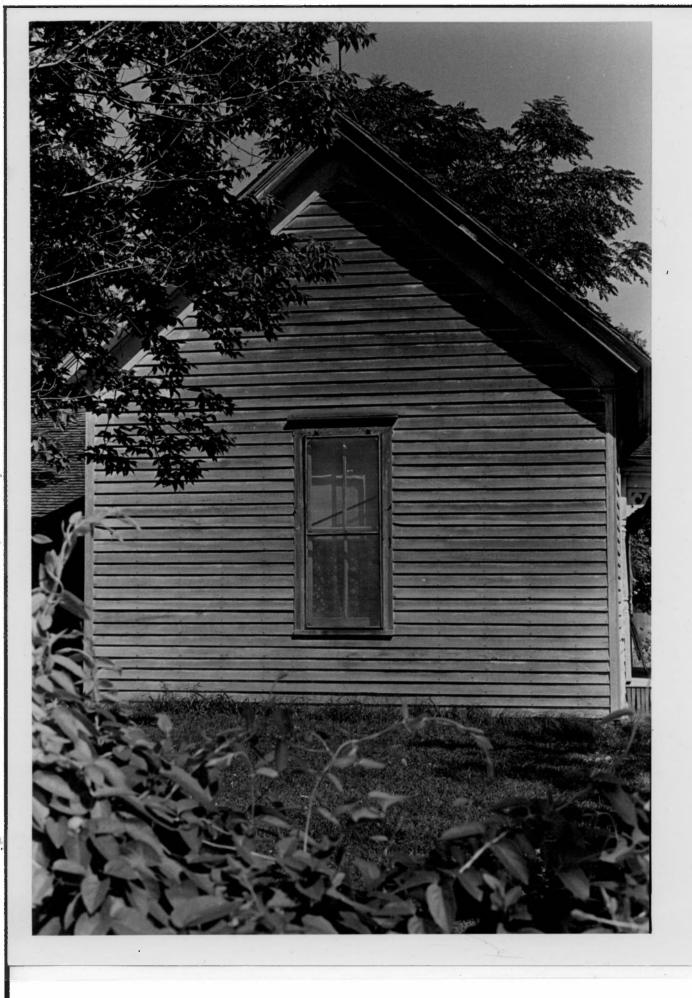


Clay FOR NPS USE ONLY Missouri ENTRY NUMBER COUNTY (Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph) NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

DATE

STATE

N	1. NAME
0	соммом: James Brothers! House
	AND/OR HISTORIC: Birthnlace of Jesse James
1	2. LOCATION
-	STREET AND NUMBER: 22 miles @ast of Kearney on State Highway 92, north 1 3/L miles
0	CITY OR TOWN:
M	Section 19 - Township 53N - Range 30N
	STATE: CODE COUNTY: CODE
S	Missouri 64060 21, Clay . 047
1	3. PHOTO REFERENCE
	PHOTO CREDIT: R. L. Walker, State Historical Survey, Missouri State Park Board
	ратеогрното: August 19, 1969, 11:00 а.т 2:15 р.т.
E	NEGATIVE FILED AT: Missouri State Park Board, P.O. Box 176
	1204 Jefferson Building, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101
9	4. IDENTIFICATION
4	DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. From South, view to the north, view of south
	elevation of the 1893 frame addition to the log cabin. Window is typical
	for that portion of the house, 2 over 2 light double-hung sash. Walls
	are trimmed with unfluted wood pilasters and simple molded caps.



047 CODE DATE PHOTO CREDIT: R.L. Walker, State Historical Survey, Missouri State Park Board DATE OF PHOTO: August 19, 1969, 11:00 a.m. - 2:15 p.m.
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Missouri State Park Board, P.O. Box 176
1204 Jefferson Building, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101 View of FOR NPS USE ONLY DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. From northeast, view to the southwest. Fissonri ENTRY NUMBER 24 miles east of Kearney on State Highway 92, COUNTY STATE Clay COUNTY: (Type all entries: - attach to or enclose with photograph) NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES Section 19 - Township 53N - Range 30N UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CODE 21, AND/OR HISTORIC: Birthplace of Jesse James PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM north 1 3/4 miles James Brothers' House 09019 STREET AND NUMBER: Missouri 3. PHOTO REFERENCE 4. IDENTIFICATION CITY OR TOWN: LOCATION COMMON STATE 1. NAME

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frame addition to the house. 1893 addition occupies the southern two-thirds of the east facade (left). 1935 addition occupies the northern

one-third of the east facade (center) and the entirety of the north gable end wall (right).

